

Bellows-Grant House
Main Street
Walpole
Cheshire County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-60

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N.H.
3-WALP
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BELLOWS-GRANT HOUSE

Location: Main Street (next house south of library) Walpole,
Cheshire County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Mrs. M. J. Weymouth and Miss F. E. Jennison.

Brief Statement
of Significance: An example of a late Georgian frame building
but with later, classic Revival, details from
the late 1840's.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: General Benjamin Bellows, was the original owner. The house was built as a wedding gift for his daughter who married Major Samuel Grant. It was subsequently owned by John Jennison.
2. Date of erection: 1790.
3. Architect: Not known.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Probably hip roof originally. Changed to gable in late 1840's.

B. Historical Events Connected with Structure: Louisa May Alcott put on plays in the attic.

C. Reference: Mrs. M. J. Weymouth (age 90 in 1959) has typescript of life of General Benjamin Bellows. Historic information for this report from her by interview.

Prepared by Dr. Frank J. Roos, Jr.,
University of Illinois, for National
Park Service, 143 South Third Street,
Philadelphia 6, Pa. - July 1959.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: Late Georgian building from 1790 with some Classic Revival details.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 2-1/2 stories - c.60' wide.
2. Foundations: Granite at ground line on field stone.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame, pegged and mortised beams.
4. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Five bay. Georgian door with pilasters, triglyphs, pediment, dentil range. Round fan in door pediment with wood tracery.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Cornices over first and third floor windows. Louvered shutters. 6/6 double hung windows.
5. Roof
 - a. Shape - covering: Gable, slate.
 - b. Cornice, eaves:- Dentil range on horizontal and raking cornice of facade and on sides of building. Two story pilasters at corners of facade, not fluted.
6. Chimneys: Two, brick -- one each side.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: Central hall running length of house, with stairway. In middle of hall, Georgian arch with keystone and crisp moldings.
2. Stairways: Panelled wainscot on stairway.
3. Floor: Pine, regular in width, about 7" wide. South East

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room has unusual slant to floors, corrected in door frames, doors, and trim. Floor slants from center of room to suggest long time sagging and later correction.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. Cornice of plaster with triglyphs in South West front room. Other cornices plain.
5. Doorways and doors: Wood framed with cornices. Crisp moldings. Panelled doors.
6. Trim: Chair rails.
7. Hardware: H and L strap hinges.
8. Lighting: Electric (1923).
9. Heating: Cornice and dentils on mantel shelves. Franklin stove. Unusual soapstone extension on fireplace opening in South West front room.

D. Site

1. General Setting and Orientation: Open - faces west.
2. Outbuildings: Connected carriage house with arches on East side.
3. Walks: Brick and stone.
4. Landscaping: Shade trees and shrubs.

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